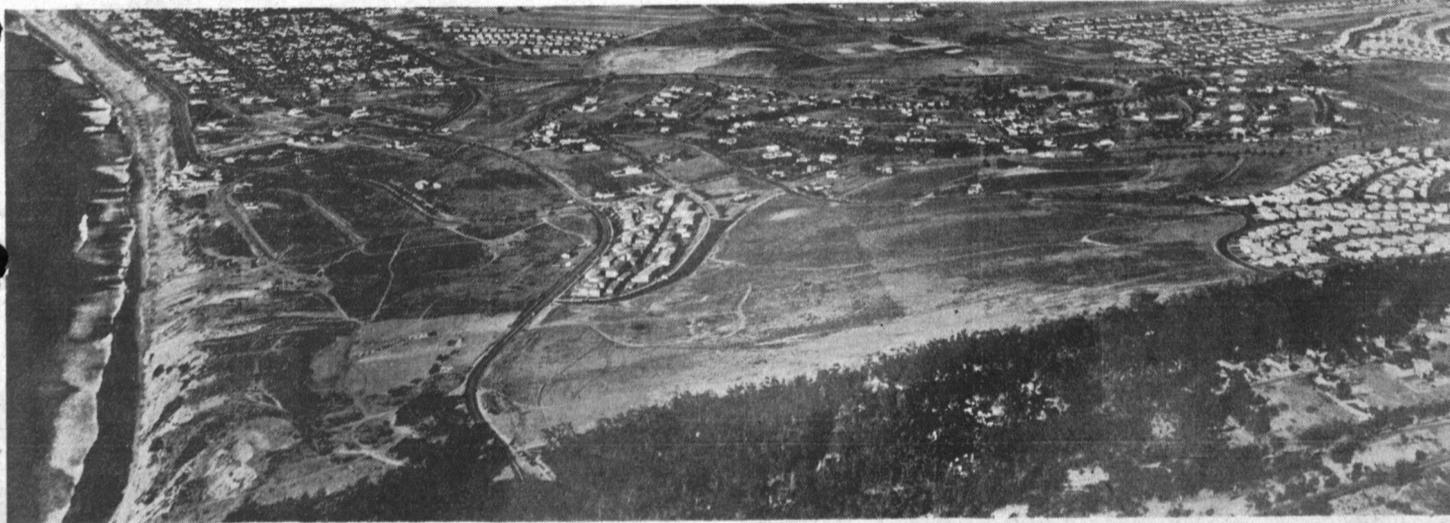


# NEGRO GROUP BIDS FOR LAND HERE



**RESIDENCE LAND WANTED BY NEGRO GROUP**—In this view of Hollywood Riviera is shown the land which Rudolph Mayer is selling because the City of Torrance says he must install sidewalks on his rural-type home development. No

other tracts in the area have sidewalks. The land involved, subdivided into 400 lots, is in the right foreground, above the row of trees on the Torrance-Palos Verdes Estates boundary. On the left, high on the Torrance beach bluff, is the

site of the proposed \$6,000,000 hotel planned by Mayer's group, which also is being abandoned. A wealthy Los Angeles Negro syndicate is attempting to buy the land, Mayer revealed.

## Offer Made For 400 Riviera Lots

A syndicate of wealthy Los Angeles Negro citizens is negotiating to buy 400 residence lots in Hollywood Riviera originally intended to be a part of a \$10,000,000 exclusive home development and a bungalow type hotel project.

Rudolph Mayer, of Ocean Hills Corporation, owners of the land, said that the City of Torrance had tied his hands from continuing his multi-million dollar development and that he had no alternative but to sell and get out of Torrance.

He said that the offer to buy the land from the Negro group which is very anxious to get possession of the 2000 feet of ocean front and beach which is a part of the property, Mayer said that the group is headed by Clarence McFadden.

"I have tried to cooperate with the City of Torrance," Mayer said, "but I am tired of being pushed around."

"Our corporation has planned a development of 400 suburban type homes, of from 1200 square feet up to sell at from \$12,500 to \$18,000," he continued. "There are no sidewalks at all in Hollywood Riviera, yet the City Council rules that we must install sidewalks which we do not want, which we do not want need, which no other tract has been required to install. A rural type subdivision has no need for sidewalks. In fact they will be damaging to the development."

### PROMISES

"Members of the Council had promised me that we would be allowed to continue without sidewalks. I received many calls from a person connected with the city who said that he could fix it up so that we did not have to install sidewalks, if financing of the development could be arranged through a firm he represents.

"We are at our wits end, and we are selling out. The offer from the Negro group is legitimate, there are no legal restrictions against them and their money is as good as any other groups' money."

Mayer continued that he already has drawn plans for the exclusive hotel on the bluff over the ocean, but that because the City has imposed unneeded easements along his property facing on Hollywood-Palos Verdes parkway, he cannot continue with that development. He said he made a legitimate deal to have the 220-foot right-of-way of the parkway reduced, and have the property returned to former owners which his corporation succeeded. "Now," Mayer continued, "we cannot do anything with the land because of the way the city has it tied up."

"We're sick and tired of the actions of Torrance officials, and we are selling out."

## Councilmen Rap Law on Appointments

Torrance City Council meeting Tuesday night was thrown into an uproar by charges of Councilmen Nick Drae and George Powell that unnamed interests are trying to impose illegal restrictions on appointments to city commissions and to the City Council.

The Council adopted, after much debate, an ordinance which would bar a commission member from being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Council, and also would bar a Councilman from being appointed on a commission until a year had expired after leaving the Council.

"This ordinance is depriving a man of his rights as an American citizen," Councilman Drae said. "This is deviating from Democracy."

Powell said, "This ordinance is discriminating against 40 men who are now serving the city."

Drae demanded to know who is responsible for the ordinance, adopted for the first reading Tuesday night, and Councilman Harvey Spelman, with red face, reluctantly admitted that he was. He did not give any reason for his actions.

Thomas Babbit and Kenneth Beight, officials of Local 1414, United Steelworkers of America, C.I.O., both attacked the ordinance.

The vote on the first reading of the ordinance was Mayor Bob Haggard, Councilman Willys Blount and Spelman, "yes" and Councilmen Drae and Powell, "no."

## C. Cowart Missing In Action

The Korean War has hit home again as Charles C. Cowart, 1055 Maple street, Torrance has been reported missing in action by the Defense Department this week.

An infantryman in the 2nd Division of the 9th Army, Cowart had been injured in action August 10, and had reported back to duty August 16.

Cowart attended San Pedro High School, before moving to Torrance. He served almost two years overseas in World War II and has decorations for the Rhineland, Central Europe, European, and Middle Eastern campaigns. He was also awarded the Good Conduct, and Victory Medal and five Battle Stars.

In the Army Reserve, Cowart re-enlisted more than a year ago.

## Traffic Group Asked to View State Solution

At the Torrance City Council meeting of Sept. 19, Councilman George Powell asked that the Traffic Commission view the intersection at Hawthorne and Sepulveda Blvds. to see what the State has done to solve a traffic problem there.

## C. Ed Jones Home After Illness

C. Ed Jones, 1528 Post Ave., returned home from the hospital after several days of serious illness. Reported well on the road to recovery, Jones is now able to receive visitors at his home.

## City Ended Year with \$119,380

The City of Torrance ended the fiscal year 1949-50 with \$119,380.67 in the bank, representing excess in revenue over expenses for the year, according to an audit handed the City Council Tuesday night.

Total revenue for the year was \$884,749.44, while total disbursements amounted to \$765,368.77. The audit, prepared by the firm of Cotton & Browne, of Redondo Beach, said that the records of the City of Torrance are in good shape, and balances found proper.

It recommended a change in procedure in the City Clerk's office, and also a change in issuing receipts in the City Engineer's office.

Of the total income for the city in the fiscal year taxes produced \$512,526.21.

State funds allocated to the city made up the next biggest total, \$70,745.11 being motor vehicle license fees given the city, and \$38,766.67 in gas tax funds.

Other big amounts came from the business license fee collection, \$55,204.30; from sales tax receipts, \$45,732.61; from building permits, \$43,822.68; from fines and forfeitures, \$43,263.15, and from franchise earnings, \$30,072.25.

These figures do not include the Bus department or Water department funds.

## Council Buys Bus For LA Run

The City Council Tuesday night ordered the purchase of a used 45-passenger bus for use on the Los Angeles line of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

Councilman Nick Drae asked that the city buy three 20-passenger buses for local lines, instead of the one 45-passenger bus, but he was overruled.

The Council agreed to investigate the use of smaller buses locally.

The contract for operation of the bus station in Los Angeles, held by Mrs. Maybel Banks, was continued for one year.

An ordinance was ordered to ban smoking on city buses.

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## Fare Hike Cuts Bus Line Revenue

### \$12,397 Loss Cause Revealed

The decrease in receipts from fares is the primary reason for the net loss in the Bus department for the past year, according to an audit of the Bus department handed to the City Council Tuesday night by the firm of Cotton & Browne, of Redondo Beach.

The receipts began dropping off when the fares were raised during the past year.

The net operating loss before "depreciation" was \$12,397.59, according to the figures given the Council. "Depreciation" pushed the loss figure up to \$34,768.22.

(Editor's note: The word "depreciation" is quoted because it cannot be considered a substantial figure. In many financial reports and audits of public bodies, "depreciation" is quoted at outlandish figures to gain a point. For instance, the Torrance buses are inventoried in this report as assets at a value of \$121,807.50, with (Continued on Page Two)

## Police Show for Sat. Nite

The curtain on the 13th Annual Police Benefit Show will raise Saturday night at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the Torrance High School auditorium.

All proceeds from this coming vaudeville program, which will (Continued on Page Two)

## Water Bonds Not To Be on Nov. Ballot

It was decided at the Sept. 19 meeting of the Torrance City Council that the recommended water bond issue of \$2,000,000 would not appear on the November ballot.

Letters protesting the proposed bond issue from the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners' Association and Seaside Riviera Civic Council were presented to the Council by Commander Mason.

Questions were asked of James Montgomery, who is engineering the water project, concerning how the Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos district would be benefited.

## Riviera Bus Line Still Under Study

Fate of the much kicked about Hollywood Riviera Bus Line rests in the hands of the Transportation Commission this week, after a lengthy discussion held Sunday in the City Hall.

Present for the meeting were interested residents from the Hollywood Riviera District who met with members of the Traffic Commission, City Manager George Stevens and Bus Manager M. A. Chamberlain, in an effort to iron out route difficulties which appear to exist at the present time.

Residents brought forward a new route for the bus line, and felt that the change would bring about a large increase in business.

According to Chamberlain, the new route would follow the route now being taken by the Torrance School Bus. "At the present time, the circuit to Hollywood Riviera and return takes approximately one hour," said Chamberlain.

## Boundary Not To Be on Nov. Redondo Ballot

According to Torrance City Manager George Stevens, Mayor Clyde Marsh of Redondo announced that the matter of re-alignment of the Torrance-Redondo Beach boundary line will not be on the November ballot, for Redondo Beach.

In order for steps to be taken for re-alignment of the boundary line, both cities have to vote on the issue, said Stevens.

## Expected Home From Hospital

It is reported that City Attorney C. Douglass Smith, recovering from a serious illness, is expected home this weekend from the hospital.

## 2 MILLION NEEDED FOR WATER HERE

California Water Service Company will want considerable amount of severance damages and other intangibles before selling out to the City of Torrance its water mains and facilities located within the city, according to James M. Montgomery, consulting engineer for the city. Therefore, the city is making plans to duplicate the system at a cost estimated at \$407,335, if a fair selling price is not to be had.

The bond issue for the proposed expansion of Torrance water districts must in this event be nearer \$2,000,000 instead of the \$1,444,900 called for in Montgomery's survey.

Montgomery said that he had contacted California Water Service Company, which serves Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos particularly, and that no definite information on a selling price is forthcoming.

With his usual anti-Torrance attitude, W. A. Mason, of Hollywood Riviera, is opposing the purchase of the California Water Service Company's facilities in Torrance, preferring, rather, to continue using that water. Residents of the area, (Continued on Page Two)

## Torrance Field Scene Of Suicide

Apparently guilty of taking his own life about noon last Tuesday was Stanley M. Booth, 49. His body was found in a vacant field at Crenshaw Blvd. and 101 Highway with his car parked nearby.

His daughter, wife of James L. Proctor, 1986 Caspian Wy., Long Beach, told police that she received a telephone call from her father in which he said he had bought a gun and was going to kill himself at the highway location.

She immediately called Proctor who hurried to the intersection, spotted his father-in-law's car and then found the body. Officers said that Booth used a rifle to shoot himself in the mouth. A note in the car said, "Blame no one for this." It was signed by Booth.

Booth until recently resided at 24711 Walnut St., Lomita. His present home was on Caspian Wy. in Long Beach, but police were unable to determine the exact address immediately.

Relatives could give no reason for the suicide.

## Water Profits Of City Huge

Water departments of the City of Torrance made a net profit of \$75,375.09 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1950, according to figures furnished to the City Council Tuesday night.

The three departments, managed by William Stanger, showed an increase in profits over the previous year of \$27,190.96, and the figures indicate that the voters need have no fear of voting the bond issue proposed to expand the water works of the city.

Municipal Water District No. 2, North Torrance, exceeded the central water department, Municipal Improvement District No. 1, in profits.

North Torrance showed a profit of \$29,887.60 for the year, due principally to the hundreds of new homes constructed in that area. This was a gain of \$19,461.47.

The central water department showed a profit of \$29,471.48, or a gain of \$20,875.68 over the previous year.

Municipal Water District No. 1, Southwest Torrance, showed a profit of \$16,016.01, a gain of \$7846.98 over the previous year.

RECORDS GOOD  
The accounts and records of the various water departments are maintained in an efficient and satisfactory manner, the re- (Continued on Page Two)

## Miss Stroh To Take City Test for Job

City Manager George Stevens recommended at Tuesday night's City Council meeting that, contrary to Ordinance No. 526, an examination for policewoman be required.

Whereas a section of Ord. No. 526 provided that an examination not be required for persons holding certain positions at that time, August 8, 1950, Stevens said that he believes an examination for the position of policewoman is in order and that it should be promotional and restricted to personnel with experience in the Police Department.

Councilman Powell moved that Ordinance No. 526 be subject of discussion at the next agenda meeting. The council approved the motion.

Stevens also recommended to (Continued on Page Two)

## So. Torrance Sewer System In Progress

Adopted by the City Council at last Tuesday night's meeting was a resolution instructing the City Engineer to prepare plans for the construction of a sanitary sewer system in the South Torrance Sewer District No. 2.

Drawings for the sewer system were prepared by Barnett, Hopen and Smith, civil engineers and land surveyors.

The sewer system in this district has been found by Torrance necessary as a health measure.



Shown above is the float sponsored by Ann Olson and her dancing school, one of the many at the Annual Kid's Day Parade, which took place last Saturday in Torrance. The parade

banner is also shown. The parade, followed by an all day carnival was sponsored by the Torrance Kiwanis. Press photo

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